

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

11-9-1981

Wilde-Stein promotes Gay Jeans Day Friday

Darcie McCann

University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

McCann, Darcie, "Wilde-Stein promotes Gay Jeans Day Friday" (1981). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 552.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/552

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Wilde-Stein promotes Gay Jeans Day Friday

by Darcie McCann
Staff Writer

A "Gay Jeans Day" will be held on campus Friday to promote an awareness of gay issues, a Wilde-Stein member said.

Marty Sabol said jeans days have been held on campus in 1977 and 1978 to gauge support for gay rights from the university community.

"One of our reasons is to give students and faculty an opportunity to think and have dialogue about the whole gay issue," he said.

The previous jeans days drew protest from some students. In 1977, three disc jockeys from WMEB, the campus radio station, read announcements over the air encouraging students to wear hats in opposition to gay rights.

Student Government President Charlie Mercer declined comment on his reaction to the proposed jeans day.

Sabol said, "people are going to have to make a choice on Friday. They are either going to be apathetic and say I don't care and I don't want any part of this or people are going to show support for gay people in society. One way or the other, they'll have to deal with the issue."

The club decided to use jeans over

other articles of clothing to symbolize that "jeans are as much a part of this campus as gays are," Sabol said. Polls have determined more than 10 percent of the United States population is gay.

"Despite a lot of the bad reactions we will get, I'm also anticipating a lot of supportive people will be wearing jeans. That's important for a lot of the gays here who feel that they are not living in a supportive environment," Wilde Stein member Stephanie Lourie said.

The visibility of gays on campus has been an ongoing problem for the group, Sabol said, because so few people fit the gay stereotype. "To a large extent, gays are an invisible minority. It's easy for black people to recognize other blacks, women to recognize other women, and off-campus students to recognize other off-campus students."

Sabol also said many gay individuals are afraid to "come out of the closet" and admit their sexual preference publicly because they have seen the reaction to those who have.

Lourie said, "The more people that come out will help non-gay people to realize just how human gay people are. "The non-exposure creates the fear."